



Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
Only believers "shall take up
serpents" (of the sea). (Mk. 16:18)

MESSAGE 12 - 2004

THE PATTERN

By Captain Gordon F. Nelson

Answering an email from Charles Thorell on January 28, 2004.

Subject: Information on Ralph Woodrow

Hi Gordon,

My name is Charles and I am the nephew of John S. Torell. I am looking for information you might have about Ralph Woodrow who was the pastor of Bethel Temple which later became Capital Christian Center in Sacramento. I have been to his website, but there seems to be a big gap in his biography and I would like to fill in the gaps. If you can help, I would appreciate it.

Charles Thorell

Hi, Charles,

Frankly, I have no information about Ralph Woodrow, ex-pastor of Bethel Temple. I do know Glen Cole was his successor. I attended Glen Cole's church prior to their move to their present location, from Howe Street by the University.

After that, I went to Trinity Church when they were located in the old building. Someway, I get disenfranchised in the transition from the old to the new. I trust I'll not have a similar problem at the resurrection of putting off the old to put on the new body. This one is getting rather old, 83 years, and tired. Soon, I trust, I'll be laying it down. I do not want to cling to the old then!

www.shipofzion.com Website is the Captain's Pulpit

However, my website, www.shipofzion.com, will be active until Jesus comes. Like Noah of old, I've been busy building my ship for posterity. Noah preached 120 years with nary a single convert! They heard Noah's message as he preached while he "pitched it (the ark) within and without with pitch." (Gen. 6:14)

Noah didn't go down looking for some religious folk to hear his message. He heard from God—end of discussion! God told Noah, "*The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood.*" (Gen. 6:13-14)

It had never rained. Do you see how crazy this was to the people? The crowds came to watch this man build an ark according to the pattern that God had told Noah. "*And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above;*

and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.” (Gen. 6:15-16)

Noah built the ark according to the pattern shown him from heaven! It was work! Just like Noah building his ark, so I have been laboring to build my website for posterity, which is my ark (the Ship of Zion).

Charles Thorell’s Email Response Due to Mailer!

Your inquiry on my email comes as a result of a mailer I sent to Pastor John S. Torell of Sacramento. He is a good man, as is Glen Cole. But, the question I bring to the table of both of these men is, “Have either of these preachers built a church ‘*after the pattern*’ (Ex. 25:9) described in the Bible?”

Pentecostalism only knows two ways to have church. You do have a choice. You can attend a Laodicean (people justice) church where the congregation owns the church and therefore must “hire” a preacher. These same folks that hire you can in turn fire you! This 21st century Pentecostal preacher has created his own alternative to being a “hireling.”

The other alternative is to attend a church where the preacher owns the church by virtue of a three-name non-profit religious incorporation supplied by the Secretary of State.

Oral Roberts has proved to be the Moses to lead the preachers into Canaan’s land; the chief convert being Kenneth Copeland. All of the preachers associated with this “prosperity message,” birthed by Oral Roberts, own their own church. They were all “lords,” but since have graduated to another plateau, declaring themselves to be “little gods.”

Since the rise of Oral Roberts to fame and fortune with the prosperity message, “the hireling system” is primarily exercised by recent graduates of Assemblies of God Bible Colleges who need some boot camp training. A.A. Allen, Morris Cerullo, Jimmy Swaggart, and a host of others took their “boot camp” training as a “hireling” in “people justice” churches. Once the preacher gains confidence he can preach, he sheds the Assemblies of God organization like a menstrual cloth. Jim and Tammy Bakker were two young people who met at an Assemblies of God Bible College. “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Our Pentecostal preachers today are subject to no one on planet earth except the IRS. These are giants! Giants are birthed by intercourse with the world’s “Articles of Incorporation,” and calling it the “church.”

Assemblies of God – Type of Walmart?

The Assemblies of God can be likened unto Walmart in the business world. When Walmart, Target or Home Depot moves into an area, other small businesses cease to exist. Americans, buying products of slave labor from China, are contributors to destroying the economy. If one is employed by Walmart, the highest wage is minimal.

The Bible says, “*And God hath set some in the church...governments.*” (1 Cor. 12:28) Read this scripture! It is up to you and I to figure out what type of government God hath set in the church. If you read closely, it is neither the “hireling” (Jn. 10:12) nor the “lords over God’s heritage.” (1 Pet. 5:3) It is the government aboard a ship according to rank and title. God set Apostles first, Prophets second, and Teachers third. Pastors are so insignificant in God’s government, they are not even mentioned in this context.

If you read Acts 13:1, you will find yourself looking at Apostle Paul's home church, Antioch. Barnabus is listed first because he was an Apostle. Perhaps Manaen is the Pastor because he is at the bottom of the list. William Booth, who founded the Salvation Army Church must have understood the government of the Bible; it was according to rank and calling from the Lord. *"As they ministered"* together (Apostles and the new convert, Saul), the Holy Ghost fell. (Acts 13:2) Antioch was "the pattern," not Springfield, MO with its "hiring and firing" of preachers. Every preacher doesn't need to have his own church! *"The elders (ministers) which are among you (collectively)...Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight."* (1 Pet. 5:1-2) *"Let the elders that rule!"* (1 Tim. 5:17) (The elders - Gk. – presbuteros – the root derivative for Presbyterian) More than just one preacher rules the house of God according to "the pattern."

Genesis 6:4 – "There Were Giants In The Earth In Those Days"

Man, in his bias and total ignorance on the subject of government, reverses God's order of government by exalting the office of a Pastor as first. These little kingdoms created by these three-name non-profit religious incorporations dispersed by the Secretary of State, are akin to the kingdom of Babel (Gen. 10:10). Babel means "confusion." Nimrod built a tower into the heavens. The only Nimrod's in our day that have successfully built on this confusion of Babel have been Pat Robertson, Oral Roberts, Jan and Paul Crouch, Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland. These five giants have built towers into the heavens that have the potential of winning the entire world into their kingdom of Babel.

When you build into the heavens, *"whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name"* for ourselves (Gen. 11:4), it will bring God down to look at this tower you have built. It is a tower of Babel because Nimrod owned the tower. Nimrod never followed the rules! Paul and Jan Crouch can rule over Apostles and Prophets, simply because they own TBN. Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) is worth at least \$4 billion.

"And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language (tongues – TBN); and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." The son, Matthew Crouch, talks of competing with Hollywood. With this type of financial power, *"nothing will be restrained from them (the owners of TBN), which they have imagined to do."* (Gen. 11:5-6)

Man can go to Mars easier than he can figure out how to hold a marriage together. Democrats put a federal tax on marriage if the marriage is according to the rules of God. These three-name incorporations even brought Diane Sawyer of ABC down to look into this kingdom of Babel.

But worse to fear is when God makes the scene in the form of the Apostles who are coming. When these Jewish Apostles step to the plate, some whom we think of as spiritual may go out feet first like Ananias and his wife, Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-5)

Walmart Drives Out Any Competition!

When I came into the Pentecostal movement you still had somewhat of a choice. We once had what was known as the Independent Assemblies of God. "Walmart" has run them out of the country, but a

segment still exists in Canada, they tell me. You're probably too young to remember the old Philadelphia church. My father was a member of the Philadelphia Church of North Chicago. This church was patterned after the then largest Pentecostal church in the world, the Philadelphia Church of Stockholm, Sweden, with some 8,000 members.



Pastor Mattsson-Boze (L)
with William Branham (R)

Pastor Joseph Mattsson-Boze of Sweden, pastored this church which my Dad and I attended. This pastor could not preach a sermon without seeing the word “government” in the text. I would attend this church as a ten-year-old lad, and I’d try to figure out how this great man of God was going to turn this particular text into saying “government”—but he always did! Little did I realize that never again would I ever hear the word “government” mentioned, even accidentally, in Pentecostal circles that I would attend in the next 60 years. This has to be the “besetting sin” of Pentecostalism. The total absence of government is dictatorship.

Pastor Cecil J. Lowry Was Hired Once. But?

My experience, along the line you’re implying is this one in Oakland, CA. Pastor Cecil J. Lowry, an ordained Assemblies of God minister, was elected as pastor over a small congregation that worshipped in a rented storefront building. The people all had a vote in selecting the pastor. But in the transition to their larger facilities that became known as the Oakland Revival Tabernacle, he would refuse to pastor unless he owned the church via a three-name religious non-profit incorporation. The last time that church would ever vote was when they selected Dr. Cecil J. Lowry as their pastor.

The Sin Is Committed In The Transition From The Old To The New

Now, if Pastor Glen Cole is guilty of a similar crime, I don’t know. But the days of Assemblies of God preachers being regulated are over, and a new day has dawned, giving birth to the “*lords over God’s heritage.*” (1 Pet. 5:3) Even the preachers rebel against the “hireling system”(Jn. 10:12) the Assemblies of God first endorsed after breaking away from Elder Seymour’s Azusa Street revival, to form an all-white organization.

The problem in Apostle Paul’s day was between Jews and Gentiles going to the same church. That problem still exists today! How many Jews attend your church?

This splintering off of the main body of Christ gave birth to more splintering. Other white men who had formed the newly organized Assemblies of God further splintered the church by forming the United Pentecostals, or the “Jesus only” heresy. Next came another splinter group with the snake handlers, and finally another break away from the main body that claims the Anglo-Saxon race is the Israel of God. (John S. Torell is an adherent of this blasphemy of scripture.) (Rom. 9-11)

This is the same doctrine of Herbert W. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God. The Catholic Church believes and teaches that they are the Israel of God; the Jews are all imposters! Romanism truly believes their headquarters should be Jerusalem, not Rome. Dr. Cecil J. Lowry, past president of an

Assemblies of God Bible College said, “There is no more significance in Jews returning to Israel, than in Swedes returning to Stockholm.”

Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin have further splintered Pentecostalism into yet another group by their personal affirmation that they are “little gods,” based on the teachings of E.W. Kenyon.

Laodicea Means Democracy

From the Greek, the word Laodicea (Rev. 3:14) literally means “people justice,” or people rule. God actually gives the counsel on how to get your membership out of Laodicea (Rev. 3:18); literally by digging for gold nuggets of truth in God’s Word.

If the people own the church, they rule. If the preacher owns the church, he rules. Do you know who owns your church?

The Bible says, “Let the elders rule” (plural). (1 Tim. 5:17) The only organization that I know of that even comes close to “the pattern” of scripture relative to government is the Salvation Army church. Believe it or not! Strangely, this is the only organization that I, as a sinner, could find Jesus in. I found Christ at the altar of a Salvation Army church in Evanston, IL sixty-two years ago.

Imagine the Salvation Army receiving a gift estimated to be in excess of \$1.5 billion from the estate of Joan B. Kroc, wife of Ray Kroc the founder of the McDonald’s restaurant chain! As a good steward, Kroc will receive a reward in heaven for this type of giving. This money will glorify God! Why? Because it was never given to a man, but to men of God, collectively. “A man may be down, but he’s never out.” This is the motto of the Salvation Army church.

Oral Roberts had no problem with accepting tainted money from the hands of a gambler to obtain his release from his own prayer tower. The Salvation Army refused a gift of \$100,000 from a man that had acquired the money by playing the lottery. The Salvation Army refused the money as unacceptable because it was tainted by gambling. I’m sure a Roman Catholic priest could solve that problem in a hurry by sprinkling a little holy water on the check! Once tainted—sprinkle, sprinkle—now clean, with the blessings of the Virgin Mary—cash the check!

Pulpit Preaching Is Designed For “Itching Ears” (2 Tim. 4:3)

Listening to pulpit preaching, it took me 20 years to discover I was saved by grace. No preacher ever told me this. God broke open the book of Galatians to me, and from that hour I turned off whatever sermon was coming from over a pulpit. It is not designed to tell you the truth. It is designed much like our news media of today. One has to visit the Secretary of State’s office and look up the Articles of Incorporation to find the truth. You will find the preacher has created his own kingdom, answerable to no one on planet earth, except the IRS.

The World Suffers In Judgment When The Salt Loses Its Savour

Calamity comes upon the world because the church has lost its savor. *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”* (Matt. 5:13) Someone needs to

call the solemn assembly of Joel 2:15-17. *“Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them.”* If George W. Bush loses this coming election, the heathen will rule over you! Ted Kennedy has already challenged the church, declaring, “It is over!” Christians are so brain dead, they can’t hear what he is declaring! He is talking to you, church. “It is over! The heathen will rule over you!” No one not believing in abortion will ever be appointed as a judge.

The Assemblies of God could bring judgment on a poor preacher who hired out for \$40 a month and a couple of chickens, but they were powerless against Jimmy Swaggart who owned his own church. The problem in Pentecost is that we have followed Springfield, MO instead of our heavenly headquarters. The great debate I bring to the table, is over who rightly should own the church.

Moses Follows A Pattern

As one studies the tabernacle, Moses followed the instructions of God, *“According to all that I shew thee, AFTER THE PATTERN of the tabernacle”* (Ex. 25:9), THAT EXISTED IN HEAVEN. When you and I get to heaven we’ll see an exact duplicate up in heaven of the tabernacle Moses built on earth. If Moses was able to follow instructions so closely in the building of the tabernacle, why do we follow the traditions of men as though no instructions exist on planet earth as to how we are to build the church?

Do you think for one minute that the Assemblies of God followed some “pattern” revealed by God from scripture? No, absolutely not, but rather followed some ex-Baptist that suddenly started talking in tongues. This ex-Southern Baptist, Eudorus N. Bell, who had been a dyed in the wool Baptist, suddenly became a Pentecostal, and called all of the preachers together to form the Assemblies of God in 1914, becoming the first chairman, or general superintendent, of the Assemblies of God organization. What kind of pattern do you think such a man would devise? He was saved as a Baptist; he was baptized in water as a Baptist; he graduated from seminary as a Baptist! Can such a man give us “the pattern” on how we Pentecostals should worship God simply because he can read and understand Greek and you cannot? I resent Calvinists telling me about how to worship God after their history of blasphemy, saying, “All speaking in tongues is of the devil.”

Eudorus N. Bell Is Called The Founder Of The Assemblies Of God



Eudorus N. Bell, a former Southern Baptist pastor, was elected as the first chairman (general superintendent) of the Assemblies of God, 1914, 1920–23. He was publisher of a monthly periodical, Word and Witness and later supervised the printing of The Christian Evangel (later The Pentecostal Evangel).

Eudorus N. Bell was born in Lake Butler, Florida on June 27, 1866, and died on June 15, 1923 in Springfield, MO. In 1903, Bell graduated from the University of Chicago and became a pastor in Texas with the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1907, he became the pastor of a small Pentecostal church in Malvern, Arkansas. Bell was instrumental in calling together the first General Assembly meeting of Pentecostal leaders. The Assemblies of God evolved from this meeting.

Charles Parham's Bible College in Topeka, Kansas is Where Elder Seymour First "Talked in Tongues"

The rise of the Pentecostal movement is largely based on the teachings of a man named Charles Parham. He is credited with being the founder of the first Pentecostal Church - the Apostolic Faith Church (Melton, 1991, 352)...¹

Parham opened a Bible School in Topeka, Kansas. He modeled his Bible School after "The Holy Ghost and Us" Bible School founded by Frank Sandford. Parham's students paid no board or tuition to attend this school. Here students assembled to study and to learn about the Word of God. His school emphasized one divine text, the Holy Bible, and one divine teacher, the Holy Spirit. The experience of Spirit Baptism was considered to be a key component of one's faith (Blumhofer, 24 - 25)...

This revival of the Pentecostal mission first spread to Missouri, Texas, and then on to California. Pentecostal believers across the world were drawn together for the first time at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles (Assemblies of God, 1989, 5) in 1906. William J. Seymour, an African American holiness minister, was delivering the messages. Here, the west coast of the United States heard speaking in tongues for the first time (Melton, 1996, 81). The Pentecostal message had succeeded in spreading across the nation and beyond. As the fires of revival continued to spread exclusive Pentecostal congregations began to form.

<http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/AofG.html>

Our Pentecostal Roots Are in Arminianism

When God sent the so-called "second blessing" at the turn of the century, it was not introduced to Baptists. It is my conviction that Azusa Street and the Topeka, KS outpourings of God's Holy Spirit were the fruits from the old Wesleyan revivals, the Holiness believers (the Arminian school of theology).

The Assemblies of God is one of the disasters of Pentecostalism. A Baptist led the Assemblies of God astray. Our Arminian roots are in Methodism, not the Southern Baptists. Both organizations signed the document, Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission In The Third Millennium. You can find a full copy of the document on my website at www.shipofzion.com under "Articles."

Participants: **Mr. Charles Colson** Prison Fellowship **Fr. Juan Diaz-Vilar, S.J.** Catholic Hispanic Ministries **Fr. Avery Dulles, S.J.** Fordham University **Bishop Francis George, OMI** Diocese of Yakima (Washington) **Dr. Kent Hill** Eastern Nazarene College **Dr. Richard Land** Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention **Dr. Larry Lewis** Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention **Dr. Jesse Miranda** Assemblies of God **Msgr. William Murphy** Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston **Fr. Richard John Neuhaus** Institute on Religion and Public Life **Mr. Brian O'Connell** World Evangelical Fellowship **Mr. Herbert Schlossberg** Fieldstead Foundation **Archbishop Francis Stafford** Archdiocese of Denver **Mr. George Weigel** Ethics and Public Policy Center **Dr. John White** Geneva College and the National Association of Evangelicals

¹ In my opinion, Charles Parham was Mr. Pentecost. It was in his church that the manifestation of tongues first surfaced some 6 years before Azusa Street. It was a student from his Bible College in Topeka, Kansas, Elder Seymour, who opened up the Glory Barn on Azusa Street in Los Angeles.

PCGC Never Signed On As One of the Harlot's Daughters (Rev. 17:5)

Please note, neither the name “Pentecostal Church of God in Christ,” founded by Bishop Mason, nor the name of the “Apostolic Faith” organization, founded by Charles Parham, is listed on the document, Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission In The Third Millennium. These two organizations missed the rostrum of being listed as one of the “great whore” daughters. The devil never gets them all. God has His remnant.

Today there is very little difference between a Baptist and an Assemblies of Godite. The only real difference is that today's Baptists are not quite as vocal in declaring, “All manner of speaking in tongues is of the devil.” The mouths of lions have been stopped ever since the William Branham-Oral Roberts ministries surfaced in the early 1950's.

Copelandism's Positive Thinking Invades the Love Generation

If you attend the number one Pentecostal church in your city today, you would think for sure you have walked into a rock and roll concert. This “love” generation of the 1960's has grown up and is saying, “Lord, Lord!” deliver me from drugs! deliver me from smoking pot!” Using Mary Baker Eddy's mind-over-matter theology, they conquered alcoholism, thus became “as gods” to their parents because they finally grew up and quit drinking. Lawdy da! The Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) were accomplishing through their Twelve Steps what the Ten Commandments and the church could not do for these parent's children. We are now reaping the “*whirlwind*” that Jeremiah prophesied would come, adding, “*in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.*” (Jer. 23:19-20) Parents compromised and never gave their children to God. Parents, in their affluence, attempted to be “as gods,” instead.

Parents Tried To Be “As Gods”

In a way, the love generation is today's Now generation. They are in charge. My son says the AA is the fastest growing organization in America! In my generation it was the Boy Scouts! If what my son says is true, this same group has just enough religion to take on the church of Jesus Christ. They never asked God to deliver them from their misguided sex perversion: only to stop drinking. These same folks are becoming the salt of the earth, and we are now feeling their sting! You can be a homosexual and be an ex-drunk, and still be a member in good standing in the AA, as long as you believe in a “higher power.” My own son's deliverance from alcohol addiction stems from his living by the rules of the Twelve Steps, not from obeying the Ten Commandments.

It is to this group, the Alcoholics Anonymous and the Gamblers Anonymous, that the “ye are gods” doctrine of Kenneth Copeland has found an open door. They now can all ride their Harley bikes together believing Satan's original lie to Eve, “*Ye shall be as gods.*” (Gen. 3:5)

An ex-drunk or ex-gambler believes he is “as a god” simply because he mastered one sin. What about the other nine? You're still going to hell if you don't ask God to forgive you for breaking His law, the Ten Commandments. “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” (Rom. 3:23) Why is it so difficult for man to admit he is a sinner and has need of a Savior? The glory of God is the Ten Commandments! You're guilty!

Is Billy Graham the Prophet Balaam for the 21st Century?

Presidents seek counsel from Billy Graham. They do not know how to be a Christian and a politician at the same time. Billy Graham can be a Christian and a member of the World Council of Churches, and possibly the Masonic Lodge, as well. Why not? If your salvation is non-conditional, you're eternally secure, and have a latitude that is foreign to an Arminianist believer in Christ.

In Revelation 2:12-17, the church in Pergamos is being condemned *"because thou hast there them that hold the DOCTRINE OF BALAAM, who taught Balac (king of Moab) to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."* (Rev. 2:14) The doctrine of unconditional salvation affords all of these—one is eternally secure!

Who is counseling President Bush that the Christian God and the god Allah are one and the same god? Who is guiding the President into being politically correct? The Anti-Defamation League, the Pope, the Muslims or Billy Graham? Read the story of Balaam in Numbers 22-25.

Christ's Greatest Sermon Was To A Congregation Of One

Christ's greatest sermon had but one in attendance; the woman at the well, a Gentile, if you please. She has to be a type of the bride of Christ. Jesus is choosing His bride, a sinner who needs salvation. Jesus divulged such secrets to this woman that His own disciples were totally unschooled in. *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* (Jn. 4:23-24) Jesus prophesied to this woman, *"Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain (Springfield, MO), nor yet at Jerusalem (legalism of the law), worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews."* (Jn. 4:21-22)

"Salvation Is Of The Jews"

Jesus said, *"salvation is of the Jews,"* and I believe they are the only ones that can make any sense of this mess we are in in the Pentecostal movement. We need to raise up Jewish Apostles who will build a church according to the pattern of the church at Antioch, Apostle Paul's home church. (Acts 13:1)

God *"gave gifts unto men."* (Eph. 4:8) One does not "hire" a gift to preach. These gifts are from God. This particular website is a gift from God. God called me to be a Captain in his Naval operation over the waters that cover the seas.

#1 gift is the Apostles. Because the church is void of this gift, is the only reason for Springfield, MO to exist.

#2 – Prophets

#3 – Evangelists

#4 – Pastors and Teachers

We need to pray that the Lord of the harvest raise up Apostles; namely Jews. Why? *"For salvation is of the Jews!"* Please read [Apostolic Foundations: The Challenge of Living an Authentic Christian Life](#) written by Messianic believer, Arthur Katz and advertised on the Jewish Voice Today program on television. You can order it online at www.jewishvoicetoday.org.